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Stimpson, a common worm on our shores. In this worm the head is larger and more distinctly separated from the rest of the body than in the others we have mentioned, and it is provided with two pairs of eyes and six or eight pairs of tentacles, while along each side of the body is a row of oar-like feet, expanding above into broad, oar-like, swimming organs, and furnished beneath with several bristles and fleshy filaments like feelers. The whole worm is radiant with all the colors of the rainbow reflected from its pearly body.

Some of these Nereids are of enormous size. We have found in the Bay of Fundy portions of the *Nereis grandis* of Stimpson, which is seventeen inches in length, and an allied form (*Eunice gigantea* Cuvier) grows in the Indian Ocean to a length of over four feet. These are the princes among worms, ranking above the smaller forms by their superior size and organization, and their rich imperial dress.

REVIEWS.

Good Books for the Sea-side. — We cannot better close our sea-side number of the Naturalist than by enumerating a few books on the common objects of the sea-side. We regret that more has not been done for the amateur sea-side naturalist by American writers. The shells of the shores of New England have been described by the late Dr. Gould in his Invertebrates of Massachusetts, originally published by the State, of which there is a new edition in preparation, to be illustrated with an abundance of first-class wood engravings, and several lithographic plates. It is to be hoped that the Legislature will see fit to order a large edition to be printed, as we learn the work is not to be stereotyped, and is not to be placed on sale, public libraries only being supplied. Otherwise, the book will not fall into the hands of naturalists, the future generations of which will be numbered by thousands, where they can now be counted by the hundred. The publication of Harris's Injurious Insects, which was stereotyped and is now rapidly selling, several editions having been struck off, was of incalculable advantage to the State from an educational point of view, and the stereotyping of the new edition of Gould's Invertebrates is a public necessity. If each legislator is to have a copy free gratis, pray why may not naturalists have the right to pay $5, or whatever the price may be, for a copy?

Our only truly popular book is "A First Lesson in Natural History, by Actæa," prepared under the direction of Professor Agassiz, and illustrated with numerous wood-cuts. Within a compass of eighty-two pages are pleasant talks about Sea-anemonies and Corals, Coral Reefs, Hydroids and Jelly-fishes, Starfishes and Sea-urchins. A more solid book and full of scientific novelties is Mrs. E. R. and Mr. A. Agassiz' Sea-side Studies, a beautifully printed and illustrated work on Hydroids and Jelly-fishes,—an indispensable hand-book to those beautiful forms. These two works form a fitting introduction to the four volumes of Professor Agassiz' great work on the Natural History of the United States, the third and fourth volumes of which are on the radiated animals of our coast, mostly comprising the Polyps and Jelly-fishes.

Many of these and other marine animals are described in Professor Clark's "Mind in Nature," a work which every student of nature should read. It contains many illustrations drawn by the facile pencil of the author. Professor Tenney's "Zoölogy for Schools" contains many admirable wood-cuts of our common fishes and marine animals, and this work must go into the library of the sea-side tourist. The student of marine zoölogy cannot do without Dr. Stimpson's Marine Invertebrates of Grand Menan (an island lying at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy), which was published by the Smithsonian Institution, whose Contributions to Science also contain Harvey's great work on the Sea-weeds of North America, abundantly illustrated with colored plates representing our marine flora. Numerous other papers on sea-animals are scattered through the Proceedings and Memoirs of our scientific societies, especially those of Charleston, Philadelphia, New York, New Haven, Boston, Salem, and Portland. The Illustrated Catalogues and Bulletins of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge, are also invaluable to those who wish to study these animals more thoroughly.

In lieu of popular American books there are several English works to be recommended. The animals they describe resemble ours in habits, and though differing specifically from those of our coast, these books will fill an important vacancy in our sea-side literature. "First and foremost, certainly," writes Charles Kingsley, come Mr. Gosse's books:

> "There is a playful and genial spirit in them, a brilliant power of word-painting, combined with deep and earnest religious feeling, which makes them as morally valuable as they are intellectually interesting. Since White's 'History of Selborne,' few or no writers on Natural History, save Mr. Gosse and poor Mr. E. Forbes, have had the power of bringing out the human side of science, and giving to seemingly dry disquisitions and animals of the lowest type, by little touches of pathos and humor, that living and personal interest, to bestow which is generally the special function of the poet: not that Waterton and Jesse are not excellent in this respect, and authors who should be in every boy's library: but they are rather anecdotists than systematic or scientific inquirers; while Mr. Gosse, in his 'Naturalist on the Shores of Devon,' his 'Tour in Jamaica,' and his 'Canadian Naturalist,' has done for those three places what White did for Selborne, with all the improved appliances of a science which has widened and deepened tenfold since White's time.
>
> "Miss Anne Pratt's 'Things of the Sea-coast' is excellent; and still better is Professor Har-

vey's 'Sea-side Book,' of which it is impossible to speak too highly; and most pleasant it is to see a man of genius and learning thus gathering the bloom of his varied knowledge, to put it into a form equally suited to a child and to a *savant*. Seldom, perhaps, has there been a little book in which so vast a quantity of facts has been compressed into so small a space, and yet told so gracefully, simply, without a taint of pedantry or cumbrousness,—an excellence which is the sure and only mark of a perfect mastery of the subject.

"Two little 'Popular' Histories, one of British Zoophytes, the other of British Sea-weeds, by Dr. Landsborough, are very excellent; and are furnished, too, with well-drawn and colored plates, for the comfort of those to whom a scientific nomenclature (as liable as any other human thing to be faulty and obscure) conveys but a vague conception of the objects. These may serve well for the beginner, as introductions to Professor Harvey's large work on the British Algæ, and to the new edition of Professor Johnston's invaluable British Zoophytes."

To these we may add "Quatrefages' Souveniers of a Naturalist," a fascinating work by a first-class observer, on the animals of the coast of France and of the shores of the Mediterranean, republished in London.

NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

ZOÖLOGY.

Insects living in the Sea.—Insects are essentially earth-inhabiting. A small proportion of all the insects live in fresh water, and less than a hundred are known to inhabit the sea. Only three species are known to inhabit the sea in this country. A year ago in August, while dredging in Salem harbor, we detected the larvæ of a species of fly living on the floating eel-grass, and apparently living on the vegetable matter collected on it. The twentieth of September they transformed to pupæ (Fig. 1; 1*a*, forefoot of the larva), and on the ninth of October appeared the fly (Fig. 2, male, and beneath, head of the female with simple antennæ), the male of which has beautifully pectinated antennæ, and belongs to the genus *Chironomus*. We have since found the full-grown

Fig. 1*a*.

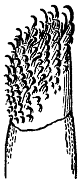

Fig. 1

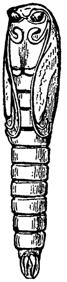

Fig. 2.